

LANDMARKS

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FIREHOUSE DESIGNATED AS DC LANDMARK

Engine Company 19, at 2813 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, is one of the most picturesque and best loved of Washington's firehouses. In July, the city recognized its historical and architectural importance with designation as a District of Columbia landmark. The firehouse features an asymmetrically placed hose tower, a massive roof, and rustic stone corner accents to decorate its stuccoed brick walls. The building was designed in 1910 by the short-lived Washington firm of Averill & Adams, one of several private firms engaged under the supervision of the new Office of the Municipal Architect to create unique firehouse designs to succeed the standard red-brick Victorian model.

Developer Arthur E. Randle donated the parcel on which the firehouse stands. The station would be centralized within his new Randle Highlands subdivision and was cited as a benefit to prospective buyers on the basis of safety in this new suburban community.

Although its interior has been altered, the exterior of Engine Company 19 retains a high degree of integrity. The building is one of the most striking and charming examples of Washington's firehouses and is characteristic of the work of private architects at the beginning of the 20th century. Engine 19 Company has also been a visual landmark of Randle Highlands since its construction, where it continues to serve as tribute to the District of Columbia's professional fire fighting force. ❖



Photo Credit: MAR

Engine Company 19, at 2813 Pennsylvania Avenue SE.

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HISTORIC HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Since initiating the Historic Homeowner Grant Program, the District government has funded over \$1.5 million in rehabilitation in our historic districts. Fifty projects have been completed, and over 250 new grant applications from 12 eligible historic districts have been received. HPO hopes to impact at least 30 new projects in FY 2010.

The program was recently featured in a video by the Office of Cable Television, which highlighted the house at 1312 U Street, SE. This beautiful Italianate style house was in severely deteriorated condition. The grant helped the owner to restore the wood siding, window and door trim, porch posts, brackets, saw cut ballusters, and cornice. The roof was patched and resealed and the concrete porches were sealed and painted. This grand-dame of the Anacostia neighborhood has been returned to its former glory. Please have a look at the video for more information on this exciting preservation program at:

http://www.octt.dc.gov/services/on_demand_video/channel16/Historical_Preservation_Grants.aspx

To assist owners with scoping and contracting issues, the HPO has been collaborating with the DC Preservation League, Washington Architectural League, the service group Yachad, the Department of Housing and Community Development and other DC agencies, and private non-profit organizations.



Photo Credit: HPO



Photo Credit: HPO

The imitation brick siding was removed and the wood siding and porch were restored at 1612 V Street SE under a grant from HPO.

HPO has also coordinated the hiring of workers from the "DC Way-To-Work Empowerment Program."

In other good news, the IRS recently deemed the grant funds non-taxable, making all funds payable to recipients. ♦

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO HPRB

In September, two new members will join the Historic Preservation Review Board.

Christopher Landis, AIA is a partner in Landis Construction Corporation, a design/build firm specializing in renovations of residential properties. The company, established by Landis and his brother Ethan in 1990, is headquartered in Takoma DC.

As a registered architect in three states and a member of the American Institute of Architects, Landis has over 20 years experience in design and construction. After earning his Master's in Architecture from Columbia University, Chris worked with Fortune 500 companies and was responsible for the design and construction of office space in high-rise multi-use buildings. With his combined architecture and management skills, Chris integrates the design process and hands-on construction expertise with an emphasis on green architecture.

Pamela Scott, Architectural Historian, and resident of Ward 4, received a Bachelor's

in Art History from the University of Wisconsin and a Masters in Art History from the University of Delaware. Her professional career has included contract work for the Library of Congress and published histories on Washington, including *Capital Engineers: The Role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Building Washington* (2006) and *Temple of Liberty: Building the Capitol for a New Nation* (1995). She also co-edited *Designing the Nation's Capitol, the 1901 Plan for Washington, DC* for the Commission of Fine Arts (2007).

Scott has also completed work for the HPO including a database of Places of Worship in the District of Columbia, a directory of District of Columbia builders, and a directory of District of Columbia architects.

Landis and Scott replace John Vlach, architectural historian, and Andrew Aurbach, historian, whose terms expired during the past year. ♦

NEW INFORMATION ON THE OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL

The Old Naval Hospital—an imposing three-story brick building—at 9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, has long been recognized and appreciated as a DC landmark and the site of the city's only surviving Civil War-era hospital. Constructed by the Department of the Navy, the 50-bed hospital building was intended specifically to serve the wounded and ill seamen and sailors of the “Potomac Flotilla.” The Potomac Flotilla, created in the early days of the Civil War, was a unit of the U.S. Navy charged with securing Union communications in the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River and its tributaries. Although the building was not actually completed until after the war, it served as a naval hospital until 1911, providing health care for the enlisted men and officers of the nearby Navy Yard and Marine Barracks.



Photo Credit: Friends of the Old Naval Hospital

The Old Naval Hospital—an imposing three-story brick building—at 9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, is the city's only surviving Civil War-era hospital.

Recent research conducted in a successful effort to secure “national-level” significance on the building has brought to light certain elusive facts about the hospital that further enhance the building's architectural and historical appeal. This new information, detailed in the amended National Register nomination on the Old Naval Hospital, not only confirms the building's place as the sole-surviving Civil War hospital in DC, but further recognizes it as the nation's only permanent Naval Hospital to have been built during the Civil War. Even more exciting for those in the architectural history world was the revelation that nationally notable architect and former Architect of the Treasury, Ammi B. Young, served as the building's superintendent of construction and may have been its architect.

Young, known primarily for the many public buildings he completed during his tenure as Architect of the Treasury, is generally recognized as a brilliant designer and one of the major American architects of the 19th century. Although the actual design of the Old Naval Hospital has not been attributed to Young, he was hired as Superintendent of Construction to prepare the working drawings, including detail

and shop drawings and to oversee construction. From his extensive years of design and construction of public buildings, including numerous US Marine Hospitals, Young introduced a high level of design professionalism into the Washington hospital building's construction.

As indicated in the cache of monthly progress reports found in the National Archives as part of this investigation, Young enhanced the construction drawings to ensure the structural stability of the building and prepared shop drawings for the carpenters and joiners, implementing a high level of detail into the hospital building for which his work was known.

Prior to the discovery that Young served as Superintendent of Construction on the Naval Hospital in Washington, DC from October 1864 until November 1866, little was known about Ammi B. Young's career following his departure from his post as Architect of the Treasury in 1862. This discovery lends valuable insight into the later career of one of the nation's premier 19th century architects and further validates the significance of the already treasured Old Naval Hospital. ❖

HISTORIC EASTERN MARKET REOPENS!

On June 26, surrounded by city officials, construction team members, and market vendors, Mayor Adrian Fenty cut the ribbon to open the newly renovated Eastern Market. A major rehabilitation project was already planned by the City when the market caught fire in April two years ago. After the damage was assessed, the plans were revised to incorporate the substantial additional repair work,

such as replacing the fire-damaged roof trusses and roof, replacing all the plaster, and determining which windows were salvageable.

The Market now boasts a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system, with ducts aligned on the walls rather than suspended from the ceiling, access between the North and South Halls, improved basement conditions (where the pottery studio is now located), and fully accessible entrances and bathrooms.

A skylight system, part of the original market, but long since removed, was reinstalled, flooding the Market with natural light. All of the displaced vendors have returned and the market is once again open for business. ❖

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

Recent and ongoing archaeological projects in the District include Phase I investigations at the Old Naval Hospital, National Arboretum, National Zoo, Bolling AFB, DC Armory, and the MPD Evidence Facility.

The HPO has been working closely with the Department of Parks and Recreation on projects in over a dozen parks to ensure that important archaeological and other cultural resources are not harmed. Where necessary HPO staff has conducted testing, monitored construction, and documented resources at Mitchell and Kalorama Parks.

The Archaeology staff has been helped this season by three Summer Youth Interns - **Myesha Millar**, a student at Trinity University, has been putting together a database on cemetery and unmarked burial laws in other states and jurisdictions.

Carmani Cardoza is researching Camp
continued on page 4

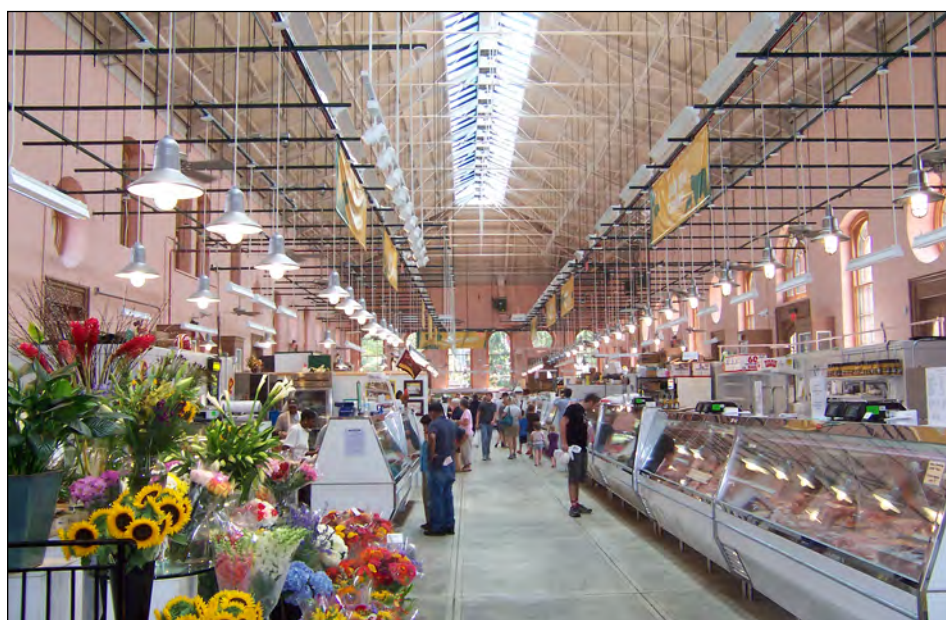


Photo Credit: HPO

A skylight system, part of the original market, but long since removed, was reinstalled, flooding the Market with natural light.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

by Patsy Fletcher

DC Community Heritage Project 2009 Grantees

The DC Community Heritage Project (DCCHP), an initiative of Historic Preservation Office and the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, is in its fifth year of operation. The project was started to support community-based preservation and history projects. The DCCHP presents twice-yearly symposia at which community historians and preservationists learn various skills required for "telling the story" of their neighborhoods and at which they have the opportunity to network with each other and with government officials, planners, and developers.



Patsy Fletcher,
Community Outreach
Coordinator

Photo Credit: HPO

Three years ago, DCCHP was able to establish an annual grant program as a result of funding from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Humanities Council, and the HPO. This year, DCCHP funded 17 community preservation projects for a total of \$30,475. Our congratulations go out to the following grant recipients:

Association of Oldest Inhabitants of Washington, DC - Reconstructing 14th Street: A Preliminary Survey of History Sources of 14th Street between V Street and Columbia Road, NW

Capitol Hill North Neighborhood Association - Uline Arena/Washington Coliseum, 1964 - When the Beatles Came to America, Storytelling and Sing-a-long video

Collections and Stories of American Muslims, Inc. - Booklet on the History of Muslims in Washington

DC Public Library, Takoma Park Branch - Preserving Takoma's Past: The Takoma History File Search Aid Pamphlet

Georgetown Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. - Al Wheeler & Georgetown: An Influential Man and His Community (documentary)

Helping Inner City Kids Succeed - Barry Farm: Past and Present (video of oral histories)

Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets - Dupont Circle & Its Past Residents: An Online History and Vintage Images

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington - Humanities Scholar Panel for Historical Interpretation

School Without Walls Home and School Association - Exhibit of the history of School Without Walls

Second Baptist Church - Road to Freedom (documentary)

Shaw Main Streets - Shaw Heritage Coloring Book reprint

Sign of the Times Workshop and Gallery - Master Builders in the Nation's Capital: African American Architects (documentary)

Smithsonian Institution Anacostia Community Museum - Resource guide to Ward 8 churches

St. Luke's Episcopal Church - Oral History Project podcast

Ward 7 Nonprofit Network - Tour brochure for Deanwood's Places of Worship: Faith & Foundation

Women of the Dove Foundation - What's in a Name: DC Public Schools History and Heritage booklet

Zion Baptist Church History Commission - Transcripts of Remembering the Past: A Zion Baptist Church Oral History Project ❖

Archaeology News continued from page 3

Barker, a Civil War-era contraband camp located near what is now the Garrison School. She will be a junior at Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Paul Poston is putting together a database on African American Civil War Troops from DC. He will be a senior at Maya Angelou High School.

Farewell and our best wishes to Assistant Archaeologist **Shagun Raina**. Shagun was a volunteer for five months before becoming a contractor last fall. Knowledgeable in GIS, she has been instrumental in the ongoing project to digitize the District's archaeological data. Shagun will be starting a PhD program in Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison specializing in South Asian Archaeology. ❖

HPO's SUMMER INTERN

Eli Pousson is a native of the Washington DC area and recently received an MA in Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland, with a certificate in Historic Preservation. During the course of his internship with the DC Historic Preservation Office, he has conducted research on early 20th century commercial buildings, expanded a historic context statement on the unique history of public space in Washington DC, and prepared a National Register nomination for the Mary Surratt Boarding House, among other projects. Eli is actively involved with the Lakeland Community Heritage Project in College Park, MD and his research interests include African American communities, suburban history, heritage tourism, and community development. He is currently seeking full-time employment. ❖

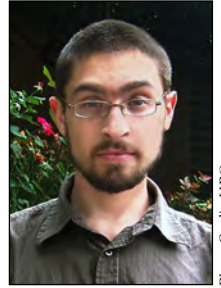


Photo Credit: HPO

SAVE THE DATE!

2009 Citywide Preservation Conference: Meeting Preservation Challenges
September 25-26, Carnegie Institution, 16th and P streets, NW
Lectures, Panel Discussions, Workshops, Walking and Bus Tours
Sponsored by DCPL and HPO. See <http://dcpreservation.org/> for more info.

District of Columbia Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation
November 4 at 6:30 pm, location TBA.
Reservations: rsvp@dcpreservation.org or (202) 783-5144.

DC Historic Building Permits Database Training with Brian Kraft, instructor.
December 1 at MLK, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street, NW, Room 311 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm sessions. Reservations:
historic.preservation@dc.gov or (202) 442-8835.

